Court dated 7-8-1987, the Committee has extended the benefits of SS Scales to those categories who were already in receipt of SS Scales but were subsequently withdrawn in light of the judgement of High Court.

(b) Yes, Sir, but not including SSSA Accountants as they constitute a separate cadre other than that of HA/Accountans.

(c) The benefit to Supreme Court judgement has been extended to all the employees falling within 18 categories who constituted the proposed Electricity Cell comprising 496 non-technical employees.

(d) and (e) Department SSSA Accountants were not petitioners in the Supreme Court

Export of Indian garments to Austria

2457. SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Austria has decided to Curb garments imports from India;

(b) if so, the nature of loss to be incurred by India for putting such a curb; and

(c) the names of the other countries which have of late placed quantitative restrictions in garment import from India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM): (a) and (b) The Government of Austria has sought consultations with Government of India for imposing quantitative restrictions on some of the *garment items* at present being exported by India.

(c) No other country has imposed quantitative restrictions on import of garments from India in the recent past.

Air pollution in metropolitan cities

2458. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is no immediate prospect of reducing the emissions in the atmosphere of carbon dioxide and water vapour in the metropolitan cities like Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta and Madras due to plying of motor vehicles; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to reduce air pollution in these cities?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) Carbon dioxide and water vapour are not monitored, as these are not prescribed as pollutants in the ambent air. However, surveys carried into the extent of air pollution due to motor vehicles have shown that the levels of carbon monoxide and suspended particulate matter are higher than the levels prescribed in certain high traffic density areas of metropolitan cities.

(b) Steps taken to reduce air pollution include the following :

(1) Standards for exhaust from motor vehicles (petrol and diesel driven) both at the manufacturing stage and on-road vehicles have been prescribed.

(2) The State Governments have been advised to enforce these standards under the Motor Vehicles Rules. So far twelve States and two Union Territories have amended the Motor Vehicles Rules and notified the vehicular emission standard.

(3) The ambient air quality standards have been evolved.

(4) The Petroleum refineries have been asked to reduce the lead content in petrol.

(5) Campaigns have been launched for creating public awareness.

Cases of income tax Evasions

2459. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in the *Hindustan Times* of the 18th July, 1988 captioned 'Many go scot-free after income-tax raids;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) how many raids have been conducted by Government in various offices, business houses and industrial complexes in the year 1987-88; and

(d) what are the reasons for the delays in prosecution of those persons involved in income-tax evasion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The number of prosecutions in respect of tax offences pending in courts as on 31.3. 1986 was 9303. Details regarding prosecutions launched and decided since then are given below:—

Fin. Year	No. of prosecutions launched	decided	Pendency at the end of Financial year
1986-87	5258	396	14165
1987-88	7361	433	21093

With a view to securing speedy disposal of prosecution cases launched by the Income-tax Department, the Government took the initiative for persuading the State Governments to set up special courts for trying economic offences or to earmark certain courts exclusively for dealing with such cases. As a result, special courts for trying economic offences have been set up at Hyderabad, Muzaffarpur, Bangalore, Ernakulam, Indore Cuttack, Jaipur, Madras, Madurai, Allahabad, Kanpur and Delhi. The State Governments of Gujarat Maharashtra and West Bengal have been requested to similarly set-up special courts, or earmark certain courts, for exclusively dealing with economic offences.

(c) During the financial year 1987-88, the Income-tax Department conducted 8464 searches in various parts of the country.

(d) Prosecutions for tax evasion are generally launched only after the relevant assessment is up-held in first appeal. This ensures that proecution are launched only in respect of assements which have stood the test of first appeal. Besides, as will be noticed from the reply to part (a) of the Quetion, the number of cases of prosecution decided by courts is far less than the number of prosecutions launched, resulting in consequential delay in disposal of many cases.

Drug trafficking cases pending in various courts

2460. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of prosecution cases pertaining to drug traffickers are pending in various courts;

(b) if so, what are the State-wise details of such pending cases as at present;

(c) whether any major lacunae have been detected in the existing laws which favour the accused; and

(d if so, whether suitable amendments are being contemplated to make the laws more efictive; if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement indicating the number of persons against whom prosecution cases are pending in various courts in the country, under the Narcotic Drug and Psychotropic Substances Act. 1985, (as reported to the Narcotics Control Bureau) is enclosed. (*See* below.)